

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05693 040731Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PA-01
ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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R 031454Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7491
INFO CSA WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
CNO
USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CMC
USDOCOSOUTH INTAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5693

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI YO US
SUBJ: DEFENSE WORKING GROUP WITH YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STATE 186865

1. ON AUGAUST 2 THE AMBASSADOR PRESENTED THE US PROPOSAL
TO ESTABLISH A DEFENSE WORKING GROUP WITH YUGOSLAVIA TO
BUDIMIR LONCAR, UNDERSECRETARY IN THE YUGOSLAV SECRETARIAT
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE AMB PROVIDED LONCAR WITH TALKING
POINTS AS SET FORTH PARA TWO REFTEL. IN ADDITION, THE AMB
MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERBATIONS:

-- SINCE THE TITO VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE SEEN
SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WISH TO IMPROVE
THEIR RELATIONSHIP IN THE MILITARY FIELD; A WORKING
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GROUP CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT OF
OUR RELATIONS IN THIS AREA.

-- WE ARE NOT PROPOSING A FORMAL, HIGH LEVEL BODY, BUT
RATHER A WORKING GROUP WHICH WOULD BRING TOGETHER
ON A REGULAR BASIS OFFICIALS WITH AN OPERATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY IN AREAS SUCH AS ARMS SALES, SHIP
VISITS, EXCHANGES, ETC.

-- OF COURSE, NO JOINT MILITARY PLANNING IS INVOLVED.
-- IT MAY PROVE POSSIBLE TO AGREE UPON THIS BEFORE THE
VISIT OF GENERAL LJUBICIC TO THE UNITED STATES IN
LATE SEPTEMBER. IF NOT, PERHAPS IT CAN BE ON THE
AGENDA FOR GENERAL LJUBICIC TO DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON
WITH SECRETARY BROWN.

2. LONCAR RESPONDED THAT THE PROPOSAL "SOUNDS INTERESTING
AND ATTRACTIVE." HE WILL IMMEDIATELY ACQUAINT YUGOSLAV
FOREIGN SECRETARY VRHOVEC AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL
LJUBICIC WITH THE PROPOSAL. LONCAR SUGGESTED THAT IT
WOULD PROBABLY ALSO REQUIRE CONSIDERATION AT THE "HIGHEST
POLITICAL LEVELS," BY WHICH HE OF COURSE MEANT SENIOR
PARTY OFFICIALS AND PROBABLY PRESIDENT TITO AS WELL. HE
SAID THE YUGOSLAV ANSWER WOULD BE PROVIDED "NOT LATER THAN
THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER." IN THE MEANTIME, LONCAR
THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY FOR THE EMBASSY TO PUT THE
PROPOSAL FORMALLY TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.
EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

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